A· Game With One Winner.

$2,000 Raised In Benefit Softball Game! For Jeff Zurlinden

By TERRY DUSCHINSKI

Suppose for a minute, that you arrived in Delhi Park Friday September 15, without prior warning of the event about to unfold.

In came the rootin'-tootin’ team of the Delhi Fire Department, flaunting around the ballfield in some vintage fire vehicle, a whoopin' and a hollerin' and a carryin’ on. The Delhi Athletic Association was more subdued in its arrival, but the kids’ coaches soon resorted — to Tom Foolery that they would never accept from knotholers.

The match was on.

The fire department, you might say, featured a stacked lineup. Naw, it’s nothing like Murderer’s Row of the Big Red Machine.

Their stack had to do with the area of their chests. Water balloons served as some misgiven imitation of, of...oi, a...well, of a girl.

They were all dressed like girls. Grown men every one of them, the athletic association too, and all of them in skirts! Gads!

The occasion was a benefit Skirt Softball Game, the proceeds going to Jeff Zurlinden. The township youth was paralyzed in an accident two years ago. The fundraiser was to help with his medical expenses.

The fire department and the athletic association fielded teams in good-natured fun to bring out the community for a show of community support.

The fire department team consisted of Carl Witsken, Howard Witsken, Dick Reuss, Bob McGowan, Steve McGowan, Joe Krammer, Larry Sandman, Len Giève, Greg Schmidt, Denny Ba. ker, Terry Baker, Herb Lips, Satch Colletta (a Delhi policeman) and Kenny Lips all under the tutelage of Joe Ruhe.

The athletic association brought out the heavy artillery: from Malone, Bill Wegman, Tom Stucker, Bill Inskipe, John Lueggering, Ron Fütz, Dick Shipman and LeRoy Rabanis, so capably guided into battle by Neal O’Leary.

Umpiring or something to that effect were Delhi Police Chief Howard Makin, Delhi Fire Chief Don Ohmer— Athletic Association President Dick Marston and Lt. Col., Larry Whalen, Assistant Chief of the Cincinnati Police.

Whalen was umpiring, that is, when not involved in a chase of Colletta, Delhi cop who infiltrated the fire department team. Sometimes it was Colletta chasing Whalen. They ended their dispute with a bucket of water over the head.

Oh yes, the star of the fire department team was Fr. Ray Meyer, chaplain of the department and Associate Pastor at St. Dominic.

Upon Fr. Ray’s first appearance at the plate, Thomas introduced him as wearing ...oops, maybe it better not be repeated. But the crowd crunched up in laughter.

The athletic association had the “sexiest catcher in town” in Joe Tony, That’s according to O’Leary, who kidded “Joe really looks good as a girl.” Silly.

The game had to be halted for a medical emergency one inning. Willimina Inskeep, base runner at second, found it to be the time of life only a mother can know.

Nurse O’Leary rushed out. Within minutes O’Leary was heading back to the bench. Baby Inskeep, six pounds, seven ounces, resting comfortably in her arms.

When he left the park in about the fourth inning, the crowd rose to cheer him and offer encouragement of “Hang in there, Jeff.”

Area merchants donated an approximate eighty-five prizes for drawing to help raise the money. Their was no admission charge.

Jerry Thomas, radio personality of WKRC, served as play-by-play announcer.

“Jerry Thomas was absolutely great,” lauded Neal O’Leary, who coached the athletic association. “He really kept things going. We had a crowd of 500 people and they stayed for two and one-half hours. They must not have been getting bored.”

Thomas’ one-liners capped off the antics taking place on the softball diamond. Perhaps you could tune him in for some punchlines you missed.